

**Meth Madness:
What Every Healthcare Worker
Should Know About
Methamphetamine Labs**

Satellite Conference
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Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications Division

Faculty

John Wible, General Counsel
Alabama Department of Public Health

Agent Al Mattox
Alabama Bureau of Investigation
Alabama Department of Public Safety

Objectives

1. Identify two ways to know that a meth lab has been or is present in a given situation.
2. List the preferred course of action when you suspect you have encountered a meth lab.
3. List two common items that can be used to "cook" meth that one might view in large quantities in a "meth" house.
4. List one legal issue for employees when a meth lab is encountered.

METHAMPHETAMINE

What's cooking in
your neighborhood?



Effects of Meth

- Short Term
 - Increased attention
 - Increased activity
 - Decreased appetite
 - Euphoria or a rush
 - Increased respiration
 - Hypothermia

Effects of Meth

- Long Term
 - Dependence and addiction
 - Paranoia
 - Hallucinations
 - Mood disturbances
 - Repetitive motor activity
 - Weight loss
 - Stroke
 - Lead poisoning

Have You Ever Seen a Meth Lab?

- Coleman stove fuel
- Iodine
- Denatured alcohol
- Lye
- Freon
- Pseudoephedrine (Sudafed, Mini Thins)

Have You Ever Seen a Meth Lab?

- Red phosphorus (matchbook striker)
- Batteries
- Coffee filters
- Rubber gloves
- Styrofoam cooler
- Duct tape

Clandestine Laboratory

- An illicit operation consisting of a sufficient combination of apparatus and chemicals that either has been or could be used in the manufacture or synthesis of controlled substances.





Locations of Clan Labs

- Stationary
- Mobile





History of Clandestine

Drug Laboratories

History of Clan Labs

- Historically, suppliers of clandestinely manufactured drugs, such as meth, have been outlaw motorcycle gangs and numerous independent traffickers.
- The Bikers preferred the P2P method of manufacturing methamphetamine and the drug was predominately found on the west coast.

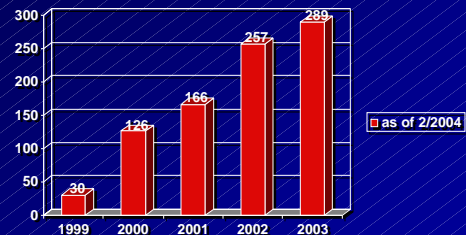
History of Clan Labs

- The early 1990's
 - Moving into Southeast
- P2P Phenyl 2 Propanone
 - Decreased
- Ephedrine Reduction / Ammonia (Nazi) / Red Phosphorus (Red P)
 - Increased

Current Trends in Labs

- Lab seizures are increasing in every state
- Ingredients still readily available
- Recipes on the Internet
- Meth use on the rise
- ICE – Late 1990's

Methamphetamine Lab Seizures - Alabama



Source: EPIC/CLSS

Meth Labs In Middle Alabama

- 2003 – 289 (DEA, State, Local)
 - 89 In Middle District of Alabama
- 2004 – 92 reported in Middle District of Alabama

Source: U.S. DEA

Why Methamphetamine?

- Easy to make
- Easy to get the necessary ingredients (i.e. drug store)
- HUGE profit margin
 - \$600.00 worth of chemicals easily makes \$2,000.00 worth of dope

Methamphetamine Facts

- 1 lb. of meth = 90,800 dosage units
- 1 gram = 200 dosage units (28 grams = 1 ounce)
- 5 mg = 1 dosage unit
- cheaper, longer high than crack

Prices Meth - ICE

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| • Per Gram - | \$60.00 | \$100.00 |
| • Per 1/8 Ounce - | \$125.00 | \$300.00 |
| • Per Pound - | \$7,000.00 | \$16,000.00 |

Most Popular Ways To Make Meth

- Ephedrine/Pseudo Reduction Labs
 - Red Phosphorus Method – Use Red P and Iodine
 - Red P, Hi Lab, Twecker Lab, Mexican National Lab
 - Nazi Method – Use Anhydrous, and Lithium, sodium, or potassium metal
 - Ammonia Lab, Sodium Metal

Ephedrine Reduction Red P Method

- The most popular method by far:
- Chemicals needed
 - Ephedrine or pseudo, red phosphorus, hydriodic acid (iodine crystals), sodium hydroxide, organic solvents (ether, freon, acetone), and hydrogen chloride gas (sulfuric acid and salt)

Ephedrine Reduction Red P Method

- Hazards
 - Red Phosphorus - "Phosphine Gas", which is a poisonous and flammable gas
 - Sodium Hydroxide - Causes severe eye and skin burns, respiratory irritant and corrosive
 - HCL Gas - Causes severe eye and skin burns, may be fatal if inhaled, rapid release of compressed gas may cause frostbite

Ephedrine Reduction NAZI/Ammonia Method

- Fastest growing in popularity:
 - Predominately in the mid-west and the south
- Chemicals needed:
 - Ephedrine or pseudo, anhydrous ammonia, sodium or lithium metal, sodium hydroxide, organic solvents (ether, camping fuel, acetone), and hydrogen chloride gas (sulfuric acid and salt)

Ephedrine Reduction NAZI / Ammonia

- Hazards
 - Anhydrous Ammonia - Corrosive and toxic gas, irritant to eyes, nose, and throat. Can cause frostbite and burn skin. May be fatal if inhaled.
 - Sodium and Lithium Metal - Water and air reactive. Corrosive, flammable solid.

Ephedrine Reduction NAZI / Ammonia

- Hazards
 - Sodium Hydroxide - Causes severe eye and skin burns. Respiratory tract irritant, corrosive.

Methamphetamine Facts: Effects

- Irritability
- Aggressive behavior
- Anxiety
- Auditory hallucinations
- Paranoid delusions



Methamphetamine Facts: Physical Effects

- Weight loss
- Sweating
- Body odor
- Bad teeth or tooth
- Open sores (speed bumps)





Common Diseases

- Hepatitis
- Cholera
- AIDS
- Herpes
- TB

Safety Tips For Approaching a Tweaker

- Keep a social distance
- Do not shine bright lights at him or her
- Slow your speech and lower the pitch of your voice
- Slow your movements
- Keep your hands visible
- Keep the "Tweaker" talking

Basic Chemical Requirements

- Precursor
- Reagent
- Solvent
- Catalyst

Basic Chemical Requirements

Precursors

- A chemical that is essential to the production of a controlled substance and for which no substitution can be made.

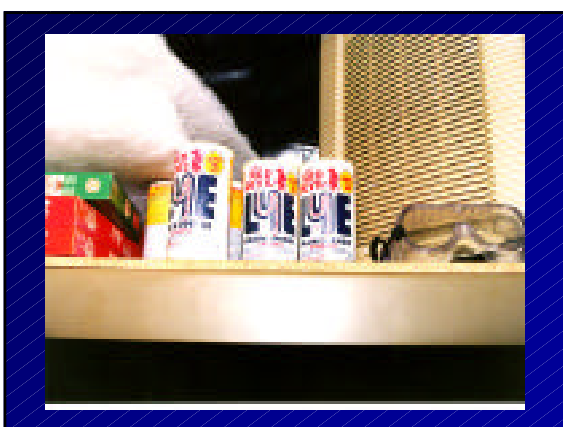
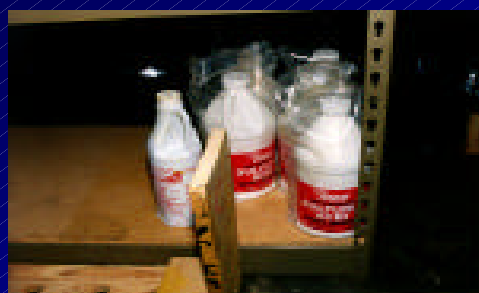


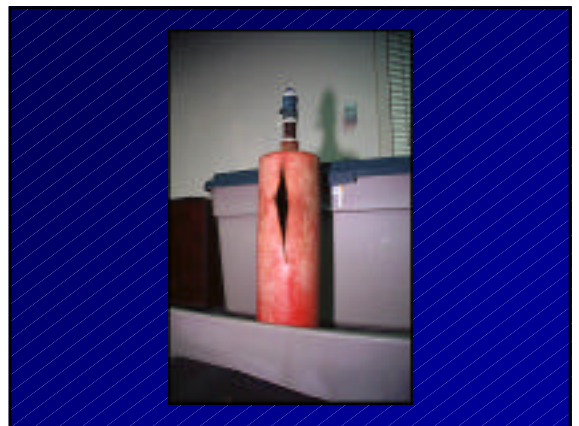


Reagents

- Chemical which reacts upon precursor causing it to chemically change.

Sulfuric Acid is combined with salt to make Hydrogen Gas.





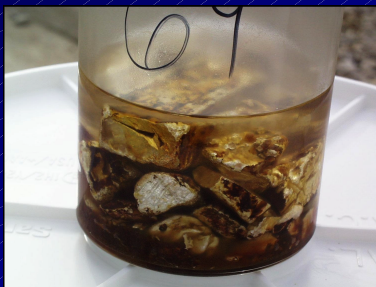
Catalyst

- Chemical which speeds up a reaction process and/or causes it to go to greater completion.

Red Phosphorus – If cooked too long will produce Phosphine Gas



Lithium Normally Stored In Mineral Spirits





Solvent

- Medium (liquid) in which a chemical operation takes place.



Contributions From the Internet

- Recipes
 - Methamphetamine
 - Birch (nazi) method, variations on old recipes
 - Bogus recipes
 - Designer drugs
 - CAT, MDMA, MDA
- Chemical stores
 - Advertising, direct mail

Common Equipment in Clandestine Laboratories

- Reaction vessels
- Heating mantles
- Funnels (Buchner)
- Miscellaneous glassware
- Compressed gas cylinder
- Rubber gloves, air purifying respirators, etc...
- Grinders









29 CFR 1910.120

- Level B - levels of protection designated by OSHA, levels range from "A" through "D", "A" being the highest level
- Monitor air quality
- Clean up
 - Can be into the tens of thousands of dollars







First On-Scene

- Protect Personal Safety
 - Avoid contact with anything or anyone
 - Do not smoke in or near clandestine drug lab
 - Never touch, taste or smell any type of equipment or chemicals in or near a clandestine drug lab
 - Minimize exposure – exit the premises and retreat to a safe distance from lab location

First On-Scene

- Protect Public Safety
 - Warn others – coworkers, people in close proximity
 - Call for help, the police or sheriff's office, emergency medical personnel, ambulance, fire department
 - Leave the area if threatened

First On-Scene

Safety Rules

- Do not enter an unknown environment
- Observe from a distance (if able to stay in area)
- Do not unnecessarily expose yourself

First On-Scene

Safety Rules

- Always request assistance – be specific
- Stay upwind and up gradient
- Avoid areas of odor, discoloration, visibility impairment, etc.
- Evacuate immediate area

